

Memorandum to Senior Arctic Officials

Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI)

For information

PURPOSE: To update Senior Arctic Officials on the status of the Arctic SDI.

SUMMARY

An Arctic SDI based on sustainable co-operation between mandated national mapping organisations will provide for access to spatially related reliable information over the Arctic. This will facilitate monitoring and decision making. The Arctic SDI initiative received, after a request from the Nordic mapping organisations, the support of the Arctic Council at its Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) -meeting in November 2009: "All Member States expressed their support for and interest in participating in the Arctic SDI project". The SAOs recognised the value of the Arctic SDI initiative and subsequently CAFF agreed to facilitate the project and Greenland is the lead country. The Arctic SDI is a pan-Arctic cooperative initiative based on input from the National Mapping Organisations of all eight Arctic Council countries.

CURRENT STATUS

There are three phases to the plan for development of the Arctic SDI. These include, (1) preparation phase which was completed in 2010 – 2011; (2) structuring phase which is currently underway; and (3) operational phase which will deal with launching the Arctic SDI into operation, scheduled for completion in 2013.

The first meeting of the project team with representatives of the national mapping agencies from each of the Arctic Council countries was held in Brussels in October 2010. At this meeting a protocol was signed which outlined the project aims and preparations for the formal start of the project. The project plan was agreed upon in February 2011 and the first implementation workshop was held in Moscow in September 2011.

In cooperation with the European Environment Agency a promotional film is under development. Work has since started on developing a prototype system and further implementation workshops are planned for early 2012. The national mapping organisations of all eight Arctic countries are in the process of finalising a Memorandum of Understanding addressing the development and maintenance of the Arctic SDI. The Arctic SDI has received widespread recognition within the global SDI community as an important initiative and when complete it will be worlds largest SDI.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- [Arctic SDI Project plan \(May 2011\)](#)
- [Arctic SDI Concept paper \(January 2011\)](#)
- [Project website – www.arctic-sdi.org](http://www.arctic-sdi.org)